

# Add on Armor Airmen save lives

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Not many people can say their work saves lives everyday, but Airmen who work at Big Bob's Add on Armor Shop can.

The 49 Airman assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron AOA Shop spend their time at Balad stripping down heavy equipment and tactical vehicles and rebuilding them stronger.

"We provide add on armor support for most of Central and Northern Iraq," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Stern, 732nd ELRS AOA manager.

Airmen working at Big Bob's install Level-Two armor to convoy vehicles being used by Airmen, Soldiers and Marines. So far this rotation the Airmen have re-armored more than 155 vehicles.

"The armor we're pulling off the trucks that come in here is far thinner than the pre-made kits we're installing," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Arnett, 732nd ELRS AOA technician. The fit of the new armor is much better and the vehicle glass with the

See AOA, Page 6



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

**Senior Airman Keaynna Thomas, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Add on Armor Shop, removes a mirror from truck. The truck must be stripped before it can receive a Level-Two armor upgrade.**

## Arming up



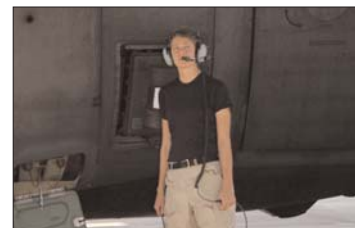
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## Keeping HH-60s flying



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## Moving the mission



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## Arming Up

Tech. Sgt. Samuel Simms, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, puts a missile that had just been removed from an F-16 on a trailer, so that it can be sent to the phase shop.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

Master Sgt. Lewis Johns, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, inspects FMU-143/B fuses and components prior to installation in the Joint Direct Attack Munition.

## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

**Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, recognizes 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Airmen for volunteering during the Tuskegee Airmen visit, making it a resounding success.**



Photo by Capt. Christine Compton

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>





Courtesy photo

## The joy of victory

Col. Tip Wight (left), 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, and 332nd AEW Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark celebrate claiming the Sports Day Horseshoe Championship after beating the 332nd Expeditionary Services team Sunday.

# DoD announces TSGLI

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Department of Defense announced the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program.

The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to servicemembers during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

On Dec. 1, all members eligible for SGLI became insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they decline SGLI coverage. A flat monthly premium of \$1 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member has elected effective Dec. 1.

This is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or disability benefits provided by the DoD. It is an insurance product similar to commercial dismemberment policies.

The TSGLI provides money for a loss

due to a specific traumatic event while disability compensation is intended to provide ongoing financial support to make up for the loss in income-earning potential due to service-connected injuries.

The retroactive provision of PL 109-13 provides that any servicemember who suffers a qualifying loss between Oct. 7, 2001 and Dec. 1, 2005, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The DoD developed this program in close coordination with the VA. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will monitor implementation with the services and make necessary adjustments if required.

For more information, servicemembers should contact their individual service. The point of contact for Air Force servicemembers is Thomas Perry at [thomas.perry@randolph.af.mil](mailto:thomas.perry@randolph.af.mil).

*(Editors note: Information courtesy of Air Force News Service)*

## BALAD AIR BASE NEWS NOTES

### Wishing deployed Airmen happy holidays

Family and friends of Airmen deployed to Balad are invited to submit a holiday message for publication in the Dec. 23 Red Tail Flyer. Greetings are limited to 45 words and must include to and from lines. All greetings are subject to copy edit. Submissions will only be accepted coming to troops here from their friends and family members at home. Submission should be sent to [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil) by Dec. 17.

### Attention Hanscom Airmen

Airman assigned to Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., have until Monday to submit holiday messages to the Hansconian newspaper. Send submissions to [Hanscom.Hansconian@hanscom.af.mil](mailto:Hanscom.Hansconian@hanscom.af.mil).

### Holiday VTC

The 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron is offering Holiday video teleconference call links with the following bases: Ramstein — Thursday, Peterson — Dec. 20, Cannon — Dec. 21, Langley and Moody — Dec. 23, Lackland and Wright-Patterson — Dec. 26 and Hill — Dec. 28. Individuals need to sign-up a day prior at the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

### Redtail safety awards

Congratulations to the November 2005 Redtail Safety Award winners: Staff Sgt. Edward Bourgeois, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nicole Pollina, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron; and Senior Airman Patricia Taylor, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. To bring someone's exceptional safety actions to attention of the safety office, call 443-6111.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

Airman 1st Class Casey Guilmette, 64th Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, cleans a GAU-2 mini gun. Airman Guilmette is an armament specialist.

## 64th EHMU Airmen keep HH-60s flying

By Tech. Sgt. **Pamela Anderson**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Whether it's a matter of life and death or a routine mission, members of the 64th Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit do everything in their power to ensure that their Combat Search and Rescue helicopters are ready to go at a moment's notice.

The unit, with more than 30 personnel assigned, works 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, maintaining and repairing the CSAR HH-60Gs deployed to Balad Air Base.

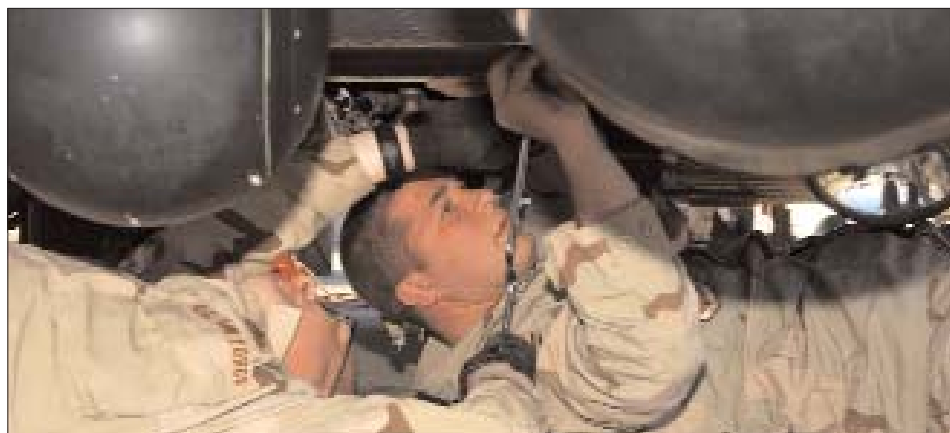
"The big thing is to stay on top of it and make sure (the aircraft) flies," said Tech. Sgt. Shaun Roberts, 64th EHMU electro-environmental craftsman.

Sergeant Roberts' main responsibility is to fix the electrical systems in the aircraft and troubleshoot when necessary.

"I'm responsible for anything that has a wire in it," he said. "It can be time consuming and sometimes difficult but the priority is to fix it and launch on time."

Launching on time hasn't been an issue for the 64th EHMU.

"We have met all alert takeoff commit-



(Right to left) Airman 1st Class Nicholas Bulduc and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Beach, both from the 64th Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, replace the systems electronics unit that controls the HH-60's infrared sensors.

ments with ease," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Pizzino, 64th EHMU expediter, "and every bird has made its mission."

Sergeant Pizzino credits that feat to teamwork and the professionalism of his team.

"We have great camaraderie between operations and maintenance," he said. "It's a very good group and overall we mix very well together."

The fact that this deployment has less

experience than most hasn't hindered the mission either, Pizzino said.

"We have a lot of first termers who have done very well for us," he said.

Senior Airman Jesse Rivas, 64th EHMU helicopter crew chief, said the end result is well worth it.

"It's a good feeling to see what you put together fly," he said "but the greatest accomplishment is knowing that my aircraft has saved somebody's life."



Airman 1st Class John Wetta, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1, performs a preflight inspection acting as the eyes and ears on the ground for the flight engineer inside the C-130's cockpit.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

# Hercules

## Moving the mission

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airmen from the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1, headquartered in Southwest Asia have set up C-130 operations at Balad Air Base.

"We are here to provide airlift through out the Iraqi theater," said Lt. Col. Steven Stater, 386th EOG Detachment 1 commander. "Our mission is to move supply and personnel to and from a major hub to all of the smaller bases throughout Iraq."

"By bringing these capabilities into Iraq we are able to provide more lift in-country, reducing the number of convoys that need to be conducted," Colonel Stater said.

(Middle) Staff Sgt. Joe Williams (left) and Airman 1st Class John Wetta check for fuel seepage in a C-130 wing. Both Airmen are crew chiefs assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1.



(Bottom) Senior Airman Ginger Bowen, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1, assists with a preflight inspection ensuring the wing flaps are functioning properly.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Arnett, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Add on Armor Shop, installs a heavy duty raising cylinder. The cylinder helps support the added weight from the new armor being installed.**

**AOA, from Page 1**

new kit is four inches thicker than the original glass.

Upgrades the AOA Airmen are making to vehicle armor can be time consuming.

Depending on the type of vehicle being worked on it can take between 65 to 120 hours to re-armor it, said Tech. Sgt. John Conner, 732nd ELRS assistant NCOIC of Sprung 2.

The Airmen in the shop take a great deal of pride knowing their work helps others remain safe.

"Knowing that we saved three more lives every time a truck goes out the

door is very rewarding," Sergeant Arnett said.

Sergeant Conner shares the same thoughts as Sergeant Arnett.

"What we are doing here allows one more son or daughter, father or mother the protection they need to make it home," Sergeant Conner said.

The hard work and accomplishments of the AOA Airmen has not gone unnoticed by their supervision.

"I couldn't be prouder of the troops I have on this rotation," Chief Stern said. "The work accomplished here has saved, and will continue to save lives of Soldiers, Marines and Airmen operating outside the wire in Iraq."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

**Master Sgt. Jon Vance, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, looks over a recently armored freightliner truck.**

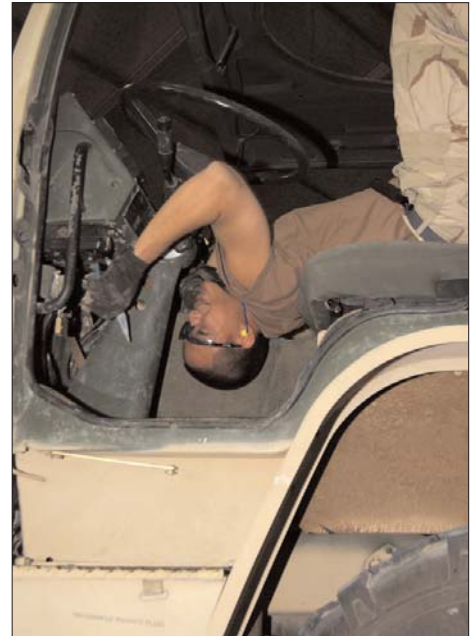


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

**Airman 1st Class Roy Dimson, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Add on Armor Shop, routes the power lines for an air conditioning system.**

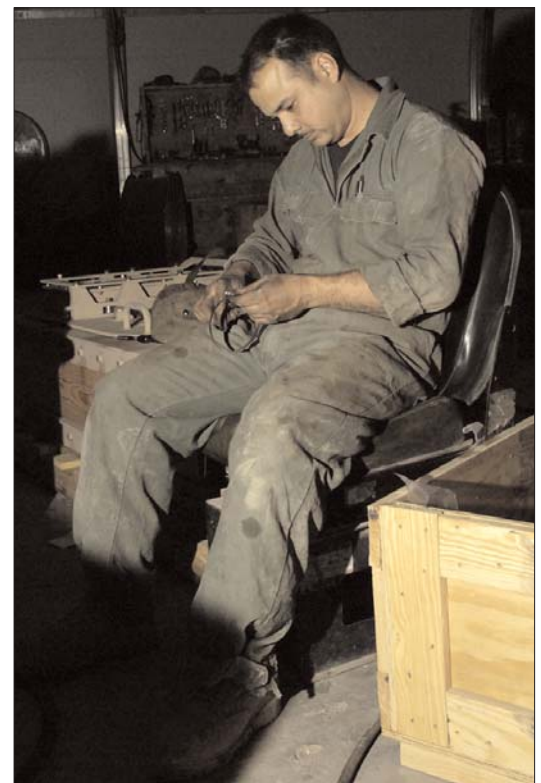


Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

**Tech. Sgt. Brett Brown, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Add on Amour Shop, prepares air conditioning hoses prior to installation on an AM General M920 truck.**





## Mission

Deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace

**LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) —** Airman Herbert Hall prepares to participate in a basic military training graduation parade. The parade of 15 squadrons marked the end of the six-week training period for about 750 of the Air Force's newest Airmen.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Photo by Master Sgt. Ken Wright

# AF releases new mission statement

By Master Sgt. **Mitch Gettle**  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and it must be clearer than ever before."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for

the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the National Command Authority and the combatant commanders with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen

dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently dominate our assigned commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies are foolish and underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "Our new mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

**NEW YORK CITY —** The United States Air Force "Thunderbirds" fly over the Statue of Liberty prior to an airshow at Jones Beach, New York.

# Thunderbirds seek volunteers

By Staff Sgt. **Josh Clendenen**  
Thunderbirds Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is looking for professionals to join an elite team known world-wide for precision flying and community involvement.

Volunteers are needed in eight career fields.

"The Thunderbirds have more than 34 career fields represented in the squadron," said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Field, chief enlisted manager of the Thunderbirds. "We have a job for just about everyone out there."

The Air Force Specialty Codes needed are 2A3X2 avionics, 2A3X3B crew chief, 2A6X3 egress, 2A6X4 fuels, 2A6X6 electro/environmental, 2A7X3 structures, 3N0X1 public affairs, 3V0X1 graphic artist and 8F000 first sergeant.

For information on the application process, visit [www.airforce.com/thunderbirds](http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds).

"Even if (a) career field is not listed, we are accepting applications," Chief Field said. "Anyone can submit an application for a job in one of the (34) career fields we have. We'll keep the application on file for six months, and if a job comes open we will look at the applications we have and we'll try to fill them with those."

One of the common misconceptions about the Thunderbirds is the team is gone all the time.

"We do travel across the United States and in some cases across the world," Chief Field said. "But we're not gone all the time. We have a good amount of time at home, but we do travel."

During the season, a typical week begins on Thursday when the team travels to its show site. Pilots fly their aircraft and support personnel typically travel in a C-17. As soon as the jets touch down, technicians recover their aircraft and perform post-flight tasks. Meanwhile, public affairs prepares for enlistment and re-enlistment ceremonies, media interviews and orientation flights.

Communications specialists videotape the arrival and landing. The advance pilot, having arrived the day before, briefs the team on subjects including transportation and the weather.

Friday is usually a practice day, giving the Thunderbird pilots an opportunity to become familiar with the terrain and local landmarks. Crew chiefs and their assistants attend to pre-flight tasks.

After the practice flight, the team meets with members of the community whose special needs might prevent them from attending a crowded show. On Saturday and Sunday, the team flies its full show and meets with the crowd to sign autographs for 20 minutes.

On Monday, the team heads back to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., then goes back to work Tuesday.

"It seems really busy, and to some extent it is, but the people you get to meet with on the road make it all worthwhile," Chief Field said.

"The bottom line is an assignment to the Thunderbirds is the chance of a lifetime," the chief said.



# 'Our' greatest generation

## Airmen serving in Iraq are some of Americas finest

By Command Chief Master Sgt. **Layton Clark**  
332nd AEW Command Chief

This summer, as I prepared to come over here and assume duties as the Command Chief for the Tuskegee Wing, I found myself bombarded by negative media coverage of the Iraqi conflict.

I was a little dismayed at our countrymen's lack of perspective and intestinal fortitude to stay in Iraq and see this through.

I felt compelled to write an article for the local paper and to explain to readers why talk of pulling troops out of Iraq and supporting the troops in the same breath is not a congruent message. My premise was that the enemy is emboldened and potential allies are hindered by the appearance of the American people wavering in their commitment to finish what we started.

I wrote of the wondrous things you are doing and how morale is actually very high among the troops here. I also wrote about how we should keep the losses we have suffered in our minds and in perspective to the losses of previous conflicts.

Well, as I prepare to celebrate the upcoming holidays with you; I want you to know that everything I wrote about your selfless dedication, morale, humanity, professionalism and superb mission

focus in bringing "Combat Airpower for America Right Here, Right Now," is true.

I hadn't even met some of you, yet my knowledge of your efforts in transitioning the nation-state of Iraq to democracy and crushing the terrorist criminals served well to prepare me for coming face to face and shoulder to shoulder with you, the warriors of today's Air Force.

With due respect to *The Greatest Generation*, described by Tom Brokaw in his book about the World War II generation, I believe that I am working among the real heroes of our people and of our time. You are all volunteers, not conscripted draftees. You are here as an expression of the collective will of our people voluntarily, some for the second or third time. Because of this I believe that you are the greatest generation that has come forth from our nation.

You are a national treasure and after this war becomes a memory, I am confident you will still be leaders and pillars of our strength.

Remember the major hurdles we helped this nation through the constitutional referendum, the first election of a permanent government and the trial of Saddam Hussein. Go back home and tell

the story of what we have done here in resupplying and rebuilding this nation.

Years from now you will see the fruits of your labor as Iraq becomes a strong, responsible nation in the world again. When that time comes to pass, you will be our future leaders in the military and future civilian elected officials. You will have a perspective that some seem to lack today. You will have served your nation when it needed you most.

I am most thankful that I am able to see you shine, and I wish every American citizen could see you in action. It would cause some to have a lump in their throat and water the eyes of others. You all embody my favorite quote by John Stuart Mill:

"War is an ugly thing but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feelings which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to flight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

You are those better men and women. Happy Holidays to you all.

### BALAD AIR BASE

## UNIFORM TIPS

Sunglasses must meet the intent of Air Force Instruction 36-2903. Vendor names and logos are acceptable unless faddish, as determined by supervision. Black, brown, silver and gold frames are permitted. Guidelines for sunglasses wear can be found in 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards], section two

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN  
Sundays and Wednesdays  
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays  
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

## Know what this is?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo was first identified by Master Sgt. Geri Dreibelbis, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, as a stack of compact discs.



Courtesy photo

## Silent Heroes

Airman 1st Class Nicole O'Hara, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, is this week's "Silent Hero." Airman O'Hara was chosen because while on convoys she maintains discipline and aggressively ensures clear paths when spotlighting for danger areas, said Command Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Tim Burton's Corpse Bride  
6 p.m. - Flightplan  
9 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
(Premiere showing)  
Midnight - Yours, Mine and Ours

### Saturday, Dec. 10

3 p.m. - The Greatest Game Ever Played  
6 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
9 p.m. - The Exorcism of Emily Rose

### Sunday, Dec. 11

3 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
8 p.m. - Serenity  
Midnight - Flightplan

### Monday, Dec. 12

3 p.m. - The Exorcism of Emily Rose  
6 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
9 p.m. - An Unfinished Life

### Tuesday, Dec. 13

3 p.m. - Flightplan  
6 p.m. - Tim Burton's Corpse Bride  
9 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours

### Wednesday, Dec. 14

3 p.m. - The Greatest Game Ever Played  
6 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
9 p.m. - Serenity

### Thursday, Dec. 15

3 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours  
6 p.m. - Flightplan  
9 p.m. - Tim Burton's Corpse Bride

